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The abuse of the emergency clause by the legislature has to some extent threatened the effectiveness of the referendum. "Five candidates for the office of governor in 1914 promised in case of election to use the veto power to prevent the abuse of the emergency clause." And yet nearly one-fifth of the acts passed in 1915 were emergency laws.

In the opinion of Professor Barnett, the effect of direct legislation upon the legislature has been, generally speaking, beneficial. It has lessened the amount of corruption in that body; has increased rather than diminished the legislator's sense of responsibility, and has furnished protection against the ever present danger that the legislature will mistake the clamor of special interests for public opinion.

Professor Barnett's account of the "Oregon system" in operation is a valuable addition to the literature of this subject.

J. ALLEN SMITH.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN IOWA, VOLUME III. By Clarence Ray Aurner. (Iowa City, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1915. Pp. xii+464. \$2.)

This book—the third volume in a proposed six-volume work—deals with the development of secondary education in the state of Iowa, the first two volumes having treated the beginnings of elementary education. The student of the history of education will find the sections on the Academy particularly interesting. The history of the rise, growth and decline of the Academy in Iowa, is especially suggestive as typical of this interesting phase of the development of secondary education in the United States. The establishment of private normal schools and institutions for training for business pursuits is very properly treated in this connection, representing as they do an early movement toward vocational training as distinguished from the college preparatory function of the academy. The public high school movement is carefully traced from the beginnings in the middle of the past century to the present day, a most difficult task in view of the lack of legislative direction. In the printing and binding, as well as in content, the book maintains the uniformly high standard of the publications of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The students of education in Iowa are fortunate in having an account of education in the state as comprehensive and reliable as this work promises to be when completed. Furthermore, this history of education will no doubt serve as an example and stimulus for histo-

rians in other states. It is to be hoped that Washington will be among the first to follow in making a reliable record of the beginnings and development of this most important feature in our civilization. Here is a great opportunity for a student of history and education in the state of Washington.

PAUL J. KRUSE.

SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD: A BIOGRAPHY. By William Healey Dall. (Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1915. Pp. 462. \$3.50.)

"The two men who have exerted the strongest influence upon natural history studies in this country are Louis Agassiz and Professor Baird." This judgment of the late Dr. J. S. Billings indicates the importance of the present and first adequate biography of Spencer Fullerton Baird.

The subject of this notable biography was for thirty-seven years in the scientific service of the United States Government. During his entire career he was directly or indirectly concerned in the organization and administration of the scientific work of the numerous surveys and explorations sent out by the Government. He was in Washington City as a youth of nineteen when the collections from the now famous Wilkes Exploring Expedition were being received by the Museum of the Patent Office. So interested did he become in the scientific material which he there saw that he at once applied for a position as curator. He failed to secure the position but in 1850 became Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and later Secretary of this Organization which position he held through life. Under his direction, the natural history reports of many of the surveys of the West were prepared and he personally wrote the two volumes of the Pacific Railroad Survey devoted to mammals and birds.

The volume contains many selections from Professor Baird's correspondence with Audubon, Agassiz, Dana and other scientists of note and is so full of human interest that anyone, regardless of profession, will find it a delightful book to read. The author, Dr. W. H. Dall, has written many books and monographs on Alaska and the Northwest and has been a curator of the United States National Museum since 1880.

COLLECTIONS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. VOLUME 13, 1913-1914. Edited by William E. Connelley. (Topeka, State Printer, 1915. Pp. 602.)

This volume will prove of value in the Pacific Northwest by rea-